

PLAGIARISM

"*Plagiarism* constitutes using the work of another without indicating by referencing (and by quotation marks when exact phrases or passages are borrowed) that the idea expressed are not one's own. Students can use the ideas and information from other authors, but this use must be acknowledged. It is also not acceptable to submit an assignment which is simply a paraphrasing of extracts from other authors; the work submitted must include some intellectual contribution of the student's own. . . . Plagiarism, which may be an acceptable practise elsewhere . . . is not acceptable within universities [or colleges] (Murdoch, 1998, p. 16).

In the preparation of an assignment Metzger (1961) notes that "an ever-present temptation will be to guide ones self too closely by the work-notes. Unless the purpose is largely one of *citing* authorities or sources . . . the writer should preserve his own independence by dealing creatively with the material instead of merely putting together a mosaic made up of other men's ideas. When, moreover, he desires to use other men's thoughts, either as propositions, interpretations, or exact quotations, honesty compels acknowledgement. This is done largely through annotation:

- (a) A direct quotation should be accompanied by a . . . note indicating the source.
- (b) A citation of fact should similarly be accompanied by a . . . note indicating the source.
- (c) An interpretation of fact, if at all significant for one's topic, should ordinarily be accompanied by a . . . note giving the source.

Material derived from classroom lectures should also be acknowledged" (p. 13).

Sometimes students substitute a number of words in a quotation and feel that this is acceptable. However, when ever **any words** are directly quoted they must be acknowledged. Similarly if you read a paragraph and summarise it then the author of the original material should be acknowledged.

A useful summary of Plagiarism is provided by Edith Cowan University. Their guidelines state, "Students must exercise considerable care in writing . . . [assignments] to ensure that they do not use another person's ideas or words in a way that would suggest that they are their own.

Whether unintentional or deliberate, plagiarism will be condemned by the academic community. Plagiarism can lead to the rejection of . . . [an assignment].

Unintentional plagiarism can occur where careless and inefficient note taking systems are used by students. Notes taken without accurate documentation or the use of quotation marks could later inadvertently be used in the mistaken belief that they were the student's own words. Students should consult standard references on writing research papers and discuss with their supervisors appropriate methods of note taking to avoid this danger.

Plagiarism can take a variety of forms. The following three types from Lester (1967, p. 47) illustrate its range:

- 1 The use of another's writing without proper use of quotation marks.

- 2 The borrowing of a phrase, the use of an idea, or the paraphrasing of material if that phrase, idea or material is not properly introduced and documented. Also included in this category of plagiarism is the mere rearrangements of phrases from the original into a new pattern.
- 3 The use of another student's work.

Lester (1967, pp. 47-48) provides the following rules of conduct when using the material of others:

- 1 Acknowledge borrowed material within the text by introducing the quotation or paraphrase with the name of the authority from whom it was taken.
- 2 Enclose within quotation marks all quoted material.
- 3 Make certain that paraphrased material is written in your own style and language. The simple rearrangement of sentence patterns is unacceptable.
- 4 Provide a footnote for each borrowed item. Note, however, the procedures for in-text citations adopted by the . . . [College] follow those outlined in the APA manual.
- 5 Provide a bibliography entry for each book, journal, or resource that appears in the text of the thesis.

INDIRECT QUOTATIONS

Turabian (1963) notes that Plagiarism includes the 'borrowing' of ideas as well as unacknowledged direct quotes from other authors (p. 53). Sometimes students substitute a number of words in a quotation and feel that this is acceptable. However, when ever **any words** are directly quoted they must be acknowledged. Similarly if you read a paragraph and summarise it then the author of the original material should be acknowledged (as in the examples below). If you refer to a book as a whole omit the page numbers. Notice that in these cases no quotation marks are used (Jongeling, 1966, p. 9).

Examples:

The original quote:

"...for in his words speech and action are combined." (Stott, 1982, p. 101)

Indirect quote

Option 1. Stott (1982) states that God's words and actions work together (p. 101)

Option 2. God's words and actions work together (Stott, 1982, p. 101).

PENALTY

The College, along with all other Australian tertiary institutions, regards all forms of plagiarism seriously and any breach will result in the loss of marks, exclusion from the unit or expulsion from the College.

REFERENCES

Preparing a thesis or research project for honours, master and doctoral awards.

(1996). Perth: Edith Cowan University.

Jongeling, S.B. (Ed.). (1996). *Referencing guide* (4th rev. ed.). Perth: Edith Cowan University.

Lester, J.D. (1967). *Writing research papers*. Glenview, IL: Scott, Forman.

Metzger, B.M. (1961). *A guide to the preparation of a thesis*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton Theological Seminary.

Stott, J. (1982). *Between Two Worlds*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Turabian K.L. (1963). *Student's guide for writing college papers*. Chicago, IL:
University of Chicago.